



AFRL-RX-WP-JA-2015-0118

RELAXATION BEHAVIOR OF Ca-BASED BULK METALLIC GLASSES (POSTPRINT)

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**APRIL 2014
Interim Report**

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YY) April 2014		2. REPORT TYPE Interim		3. DATES COVERED (From - To) 19 March 2014 – 31 March 2014	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE RELAXATION BEHAVIOR OF Ca-BASED BULK METALLIC GLASSES (POSTPRINT)				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER In-house	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER 62102F	
6. AUTHOR(S) Daniel B. Miracle - AFRL/RXCM Oleg N. Senkov - UES, Inc.				5d. PROJECT NUMBER 4349	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER X0W6	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) AFRL/RXCM 2941 Hobson Way Bldg 654, Rm 136 Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433 UES, Inc. 4401 Dayton-Xenia Rd. Dayton, OH 45432-1894				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Air Force Research Laboratory Materials and Manufacturing Directorate Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH 45433-7750 Air Force Materiel Command United States Air Force				10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY ACRONYM(S) AFRL/RXCM	
				11. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER(S) AFRL-RX-WP-JA-2015-0118	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Distribution Statement A. Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Journal article published in <i>Metallurgical and Materials Transactions A</i> , Volume 41A, July 2010, 1677-1684. © The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society and ASM International 2009. The U.S. Government is joint author of the work and has the right to use, modify, reproduce, release, perform, display or disclose the work. This report contains color. The final publication is available at DOI: 10.1007/s11661-009-9981-3.					
14. ABSTRACT The relaxation behavior of $\text{Ca}_{60}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Zn}_{20}$, $\text{Ca}_{60}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Cu}$, $\text{Ca}_{65}\text{Mg}_{15}\text{Zn}_{20}$, $\text{Ca}_{50}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Cu}_{30}$, and $\text{Ca}_{55}\text{Mg}_{18}\text{Zn}_{11}\text{Cu}_{16}$ bulk metallic glasses was determined in the glass transition region using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) with heating rates from 1 to 160 K/min. The activation enthalpy of structural relaxation and the fragility index m were found to be smaller in the glassy state (onset of the glass transition) than in the supercooled liquid state (end of glass transition). The Ca-based glass-forming liquids showed strong behavior of the relaxation time, with the fragility indexes m in the range of 33 to 40. The strong liquid behavior implies sluggish kinetics of crystallization in the supercooled liquid region and explains the very good glass-forming ability (GFA) of these alloys. The critical cooling rate for amorphization R_c of the Ca-based bulk metallic glasses was estimated to be in the range of 0.3 to 10 K/s, which is similar to R_c values for the best Pd- and Zr-based metallic glass-forming alloys discovered so far.					
15. SUBJECT TERMS amorphous alloys, bulk metallic glasses					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT:	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON (Monitor) Micheal E. Burba 19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) (937) 255-9795
a. REPORT Unclassified	b. ABSTRACT Unclassified	c. THIS PAGE Unclassified			

Relaxation Behavior of Ca-Based Bulk Metallic Glasses

OLEG N. SENKOV and DANIEL B. MIRACLE

The relaxation behavior of $\text{Ca}_{60}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Zn}_{20}$, $\text{Ca}_{60}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Cu}_{20}$, $\text{Ca}_{65}\text{Mg}_{15}\text{Zn}_{20}$, $\text{Ca}_{50}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Cu}_{30}$, and $\text{Ca}_{55}\text{Mg}_{18}\text{Zn}_{11}\text{Cu}_{16}$ bulk metallic glasses was determined in the glass transition region using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) with heating rates from 1 to 160 K/min. The activation enthalpy of structural relaxation and the fragility index m were found to be smaller in the glassy state (onset of the glass transition) than in the supercooled liquid state (end of glass transition). The Ca-based glass-forming liquids showed strong behavior of the relaxation time, with the fragility indexes m in the range of 33 to 40. The strong liquid behavior implies sluggish kinetics of crystallization in the supercooled liquid region and explains the very good glass-forming ability (GFA) of these alloys. The critical cooling rate for amorphization R_c of the Ca-based bulk metallic glasses was estimated to be in the range of 0.3 to 10 K/s, which is similar to R_c values for the best Pd- and Zr-based metallic glass-forming alloys discovered so far.

DOI: 10.1007/s11661-009-9981-3

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I. INTRODUCTION

DEPENDING on the temperature dependence of the relaxation time τ (or, equivalently, the viscosity $\eta = G_\infty\tau$, where G_∞ is the dynamic shear modulus) in the temperature range between T_g and T_m , where T_g is the glass transition temperature and T_m is the melting (usually liquidus) temperature, glass-forming liquids are divided into strong and fragile liquids. When the logarithm of the relaxation time of a supercooled liquid is plotted vs an inverse absolute temperature, T , reduced by T_g (i.e., $\log(\tau)$ vs T_g/T), all glass-forming liquids have the same relaxation time of $\tau_g = 10^3$ s at $T = T_g$ (in accord to this definition of T_g).^[1] With an increase in temperature above T_g , liquids with strong directional bonding and high stability of intermediate range order, such as silica or germania, show almost a linear, Arrhenius, dependence of $\log(\tau)$ on T_g/T over the entire temperature range above T_g . These liquids are called *strong liquids*. At the same time, molecular liquids and many metallic glasses, which lack a strong directional bonding character and therefore possess a high configurational degeneracy and suffer rapid degradation of intermediate range order above T_g , show a very rapid decrease in $\log(\tau)$ with a decrease in T_g/T in the temperature range of $T_g \leq T \leq T_m$ and a weak dependence above T_m . These liquids are called *fragile liquids*. Examples of extremely fragile liquids are *o*-terphenyl, toluene, pure metals, and marginal metallic glasses.

Stronger liquids are generally better glass formers because they have higher viscosity/relaxation time at $T < T_m$, and therefore slower kinetics of crystallization, than more fragile liquids.^[2-4] Almost all bulk metallic glasses show intermediate fragile behavior.^[5] Slow kinetics of crystallization due to high viscosity/high relaxation time of supercooled liquid can also be important for enhancing the GFA of bulk metallic glasses.

The fragile behavior of supercooled glass-forming liquids can generally be described by an empirical Vogel–Fulcher–Tamman (VFT) equation:^[6]

$$\tau = \tau_\infty \exp[A/(T - T_o)] \quad [1]$$

where τ_∞ , A , and T_o are the fitting parameters. An approach to quantify liquid fragility defines a fragility index m as the slope of the $\log_{10} \tau$ (or $\log_{10} \eta$) vs T_g/T curve near T_g .^[7]

$$m = \left. \frac{d \log_{10} \tau}{d(T_g/T)} \right|_{T=T_g} \equiv \left. \frac{d \log_{10} \eta}{d(T_g/T)} \right|_{T=T_g} \quad [2]$$

According to this definition, more fragile liquids have higher m values.

Since its introduction in 1993, the fragility index m has become an important material constant, which has been found to correlate with other glass properties, such as vibrational properties of the harmonic glassy dynamics,^[8] Poisson's ratio,^[9,10] jump in the heat capacity at T_g ,^[11,12] and GFA.^[4,13] For example, the critical cooling rate for amorphization, R_c , was found to increase with an increase in the fragility index, m , obeying the following relation:^[4]

$$\log(R_c) = 11.8 - 694/[32 + m(1/T_{rg} - 1)] \quad [3]$$

where R_c is given in K/s and $T_{rg} = T_g/T_m$ is the reduced glass transition temperature.

Although m describes the viscous behavior of a supercooled liquid near T_g , recent analysis^[14] has shown

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This article is based on a presentation given in the symposium "Bulk Metallic Glasses VI," which occurred during the TMS Annual Meeting, February 15–19, 2009, in San Francisco, CA, under the auspices of TMS, the TMS Structural Materials Division, TMS/ASM: Mechanical Behavior of Materials Committee.

Article published online September 3, 2009

that, together with other experimentally accessible parameters, it can be used to describe the temperature dependence of viscosity in a wider temperature range:

$$\log(\eta) = 12 - n \frac{1 - \frac{T_g}{T}}{1 - \left(1 - \frac{n}{m}\right) \frac{T_g}{T}} \quad [4]$$

In Eq. [4],

$$n = m \frac{1 - (1 - T_{rg}) \frac{\Delta C_p(T_g)}{\Delta S_m}}{1 + T_{rg} \frac{\Delta C_p(T_g)}{\Delta S_m}}$$

$\Delta C_p(T_g)$ is the heat capacity jump at T_g , and $\Delta S(T_m)$ is the entropy of fusion.

The preceding brief overview clearly indicates a significant importance of the fragility index m for linking dynamic and thermodynamic properties of supercooled liquid and glassy states. From this perspective, it is critical to establish experimental procedures for measuring correct values of m for different glass-forming liquids. Two main methods to measure m are widely used. The first is the straightforward method of measuring the steepness of the $\log \eta$ vs T_g/T or $\log \tau$ vs T_g/T curve at T_g , in accordance with Eq. [2], using reliable viscosity or relaxation time data for the supercooled liquid state in the temperature range close to T_g . An extensive m database compiled by this direct method is currently available for many oxide and organic liquids,^[7,11,15] as well as for some metallic alloys.^[10,16] The fragility index obtained by this method is called the *kinetic fragility index* and is identified as m_k .

The second method involves differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) at a constant heating (or cooling) rate ϕ . This approach uses the fact that, upon heating, the glass transition represents the relaxation of the nonequilibrium glassy state into the equilibrium supercooled liquid state. The kinetics of the glass transition reflects the relationship between the relaxation time and temperature. When a higher heating rate ϕ is used, the calorimetric glass transition temperature T_g^{cal} shifts to a higher temperature. This dependence of T_g^{cal} on ϕ is used to calculate the activation enthalpy of structural relaxation, ΔH_g , at the glass transition.^[17]

$$\Delta H_g = -R \frac{d \ln \phi}{d(1/T_g^{\text{cal}})} \quad [5]$$

where R is the gas constant. The *calorimetric fragility index* m_c is then often calculated as

$$m_c = \frac{\Delta H_g}{RT_g^{\text{ref}} \ln 10} \quad [6]$$

In Eq. [6], T_g^{ref} is the calorimetric glass transition temperature determined at a referenced heating rate ϕ^{ref} . The latter can be defined as $\phi^{\text{ref}} = \Delta T_g / \tau_g$, where $\Delta T_g = T_{ge} - T_{gs}$ is the temperature interval of the glass transition; T_{gs} and T_{ge} are the temperatures of the start and the end of the glass transition, respectively; and $\tau_g = 1000$ s. Equation [6] is equivalent to Eq. [2]

only if ΔT_g is essentially independent of the heating rate, which is not always correct.^[1,18] In general, use of the total relaxation time for the calorimetric glass transition, $\tau_g^{\text{cal}} = \Delta T_g / \phi$, instead of ϕ , is more appropriate,^[19,20] and m_c is calculated as the slope of $\log \tau_g^{\text{cal}}$ vs $1/T_g^{\text{cal}}$ reduced by T_g^{ref} :

$$m_c = \frac{1}{T_g^{\text{ref}}} \frac{\Delta \log \tau_g^{\text{cal}}}{\Delta(1/T_g^{\text{cal}})} \bigg|_{T_g^{\text{ref}}} \quad [7]$$

The m_c values obtained by DSC are almost always smaller than the m_k values obtained from viscosity/relaxation time measurements.^[10,15,17] For example, $m_k = 50, 59$, and 54 vs $m_c = 39, 52$, and 41 were reported for $\text{Zr}_{41}\text{Ti}_{14}\text{Cu}_{12.5}\text{Ni}_{10}\text{Be}_{22.5}$, $\text{Pd}_{39}\text{Ni}_{10}\text{Cu}_{30}\text{P}_{21}$, and $\text{Pd}_{40}\text{Ni}_{40}\text{P}_{20}$, respectively.^[10] In our opinion, the reason of such discrepancy is using the temperature of the onset of the glass transition, *i.e.*, T_{gs} , as T_g^{cal} in Eqs. [6] and [7]. Indeed, analysis of all experimental data on calorimetric measurements of m_c for bulk metallic glasses reported to date shows that only the time dependence of T_{gs} has been used. However, T_{gs} corresponds to the glassy state, and therefore, m_c determined in this way reflects the relaxation behavior of the glassy state, while m_k , by definition, reflects the relaxation behavior of a supercooled liquid state at T_g . We therefore suggest here that, in order to correctly determine the relaxation behavior of a supercooled liquid near T_g in DSC experiments, the temperature of the end of the glass transition, *i.e.*, T_{ge} , should be used as T_g^{cal} in Eq. [6] or [7], because, within the glass transition range, this temperature most closely corresponds to the supercooled liquid state.

In this article, we report on the relaxation behavior of several Ca-Mg-Zn, Ca-Mg-Cu, and Ca-Mg-Zn-Cu bulk metallic glasses (BMGs) determined by DSC in the glass transition range. These relatively new amorphous metallic materials are based on two simple metals, Ca and Mg, have the lowest density among all BMGs discovered so far, and have excellent glass-forming ability (GFA).^[21–27] The relaxation behavior of these materials in the glassy state, using T_{gs} as T_g^{cal} , is shown to be stronger than in the supercooled liquid state, where T_g^{cal} is given by T_{ge} . The fragile behavior of the Ca-based BMGs is compared with the behavior of other metallic and nonmetallic glasses/supercooled liquids. It is concluded that the Ca-based supercooled liquids are less fragile than other BMGs, and their fragility is comparable with the fragility of strong oxide glasses. The GFA of the Ca-based BMGs is estimated to be similar to the GFA of the best glass-forming Pd-based and Zr-based BMGs.

II. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Five Ca-based glassy alloys were prepared by a Cu-mold casting method in the form of 4-mm-thick plates. The nominal alloy compositions, in atomic percent, are $\text{Ca}_{60}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Zn}_{20}$, $\text{Ca}_{60}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Cu}_{20}$, $\text{Ca}_{65}\text{Mg}_{15}\text{Zn}_{20}$,

$\text{Ca}_{50}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Cu}_{30}$, and $\text{Ca}_{55}\text{Mg}_{18}\text{Zn}_{11}\text{Cu}_{16}$. The methods of the alloy preparation and casting, as well as some thermodynamic properties of these glassy alloys, were reported elsewhere.^[21,23,24] The DSC heating runs of the amorphous samples were conducted on a TA Instruments Q-1000 differential scanning calorimeter (TA Instruments, New Castle, DE) in the temperature range of 330 to 450 K, which covered the glass transition region, with heating rates of 1.0, 2.5, 5.0, 10, 20, 40, 80, 110, and 160 K/min. The temperatures T_{gs} and T_{ge} , as well as ΔT_g , were determined at different heating rates using TA Universal Analysis version 4.2E software (TA Instruments, New Castle, DE). From the rate dependences of T_{gs} and T_{ge} , the activation enthalpy of the structural relaxation ΔH_g and the fragility index m_c were determined in the glassy and supercooled liquid regions near the glass transition with the use of Eqs. [5] and [7], respectively.

III. RESULTS

Figure 1 illustrates a typical DSC scan at the heating rate of 20 K/min of the $\text{Ca}_{50}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Cu}_{30}$ BMG. The glass, glass transition, and supercooled liquid temperature regions are clearly identified. The glass transition starts at T_{gs} and ends at T_{ge} , while the supercooled liquid region is terminated by crystallization at T_x . More examples of DSC scans for the Ca-based BMGs can be found in previous publications.^[21,23,24,28]

The dependences of T_{gs} and T_{ge} on the heating rate for two Ca-based BMGs are shown in Figure 2. Both T_{gs} and T_{ge} increase and the temperature interval of the glass transition ΔT_g decreases with an increase in the heating rate. From the dependences of T_{gs} and T_{ge} on the heating rate, the activation enthalpies of structural relaxation at the beginning (ΔH_{gs}) and the end (ΔH_{ge}) of glass transition were calculated using Eq. [5], and their values

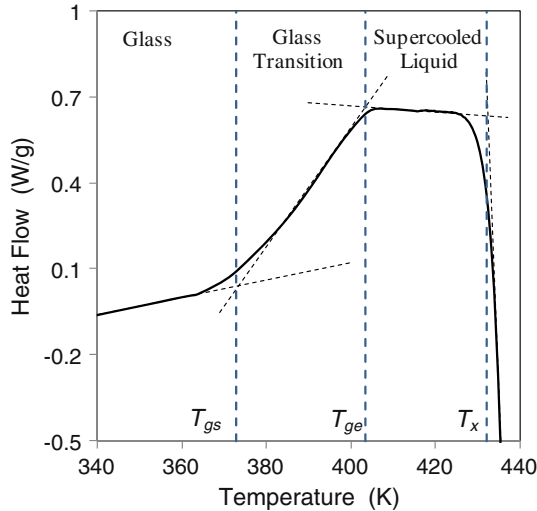


Fig. 1 DSC scan at ϕ 20 K/min of the $\text{Ca}_{50}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Cu}_{30}$ bulk metallic glass. The temperatures of the onset, T_{gs} , and the end, T_{ge} , of the glass transition, as well as the temperature of the onset of crystallization, T_x , are indicated in the figure. The endothermic reactions are directed up.

are given in Table I. The m_c values calculated with Eq. [6] are also given in this table. It can be seen that the ternary Ca-based BMGs have almost the same $\Delta H_{gs} \approx 121$ to 127 kJ/mol, while the quaternary $\text{Ca}_{55}\text{Mg}_{18}\text{Zn}_{11}\text{Cu}_{16}$ alloy has a slightly higher $\Delta H_{gs} = 134$ kJ/mol. The relaxation enthalpy increases with an increase in the volume fraction of the supercooled liquid, and at the end of the glass transition. $\Delta H_{ge} = 211$ to 229 kJ/mol for the ternary alloys and 255 kJ/mol for the quaternary alloy.

Figure 3 shows the dependences of the total relaxation time for the glass transition, $\tau_g^{\text{cal}} = \Delta T_g / \phi$, on T_{gs} and T_{ge} plotted in Arrhenius coordinates, i.e., $\log \tau_g^{\text{cal}}$ vs $1/T$. These dependences were fitted with the VFT Eq. [1], in which $\tau_\infty = 10^{-14}$ s was assigned based on earlier observations^[6,7] that (1) for many glass-forming liquids, τ_∞ is in the range of $10^{-15.5}$ to $10^{-12.5}$ s and (2) the VFT fit of the temperature dependence of the relaxation time near T_g is not very sensitive to the exact value of τ_∞ in the given τ_∞ range. The VFT fitting parameters A and T_0 (Eq. [1]) for five Ca-based BMGs studied in this work are given in Tables II and III for the onset and the end

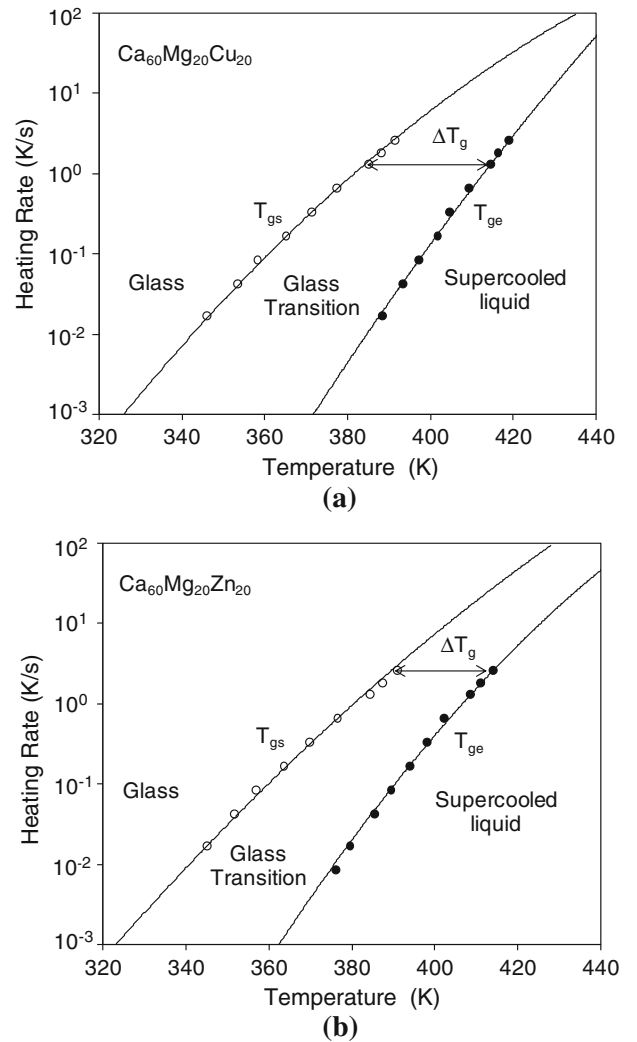


Fig. 2 Heating rate dependence of the temperatures of the onset (○) and the end (●) of the glass transition for (a) $\text{Ca}_{60}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Cu}_{20}$ and (b) $\text{Ca}_{60}\text{Mg}_{20}\text{Zn}_{20}$ BMGs.

Table I. Calculated Activation Enthalpy of Structural Relaxation ΔH_g (Equation [5]) and Fragility Index m_c (Equation [6]) at the Onset (ΔH_{gs} , m_{cs}) and at the End (ΔH_{ge} , m_{ce}) of the Glass Transition for Five Ca-Based BMGs

Glass	ΔH_{gs} (kJ/mol)	ΔH_{ge} (kJ/mol)	m_{cs} (Eq. [6])	m_{ce} (Eq. [6])
Ca ₆₅ Mg ₁₅ Zn ₂₀	127	211	19.4	30.5
Ca ₆₀ Mg ₂₀ Zn ₂₀	121	215	18.1	29.2
Ca ₆₀ Mg ₂₀ Cu ₂₀	125	224	18.5	29.8
Ca ₅₀ Mg ₂₀ Cu ₃₀	125	229	18.0	29.7
Ca ₅₅ Mg ₁₈ Zn ₁₁ Cu ₁₆	134	255	19.5	34.2

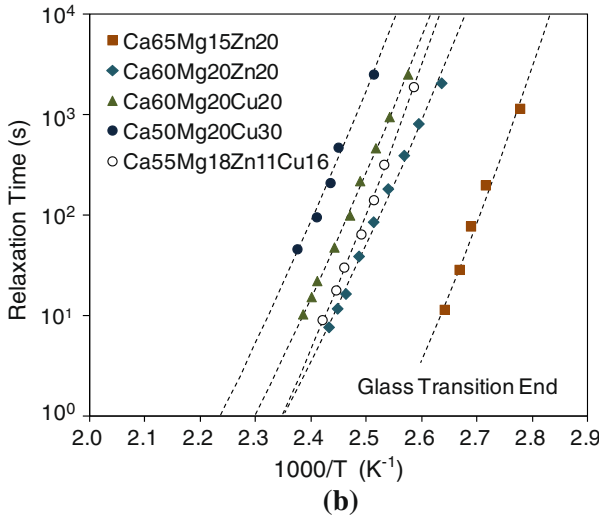
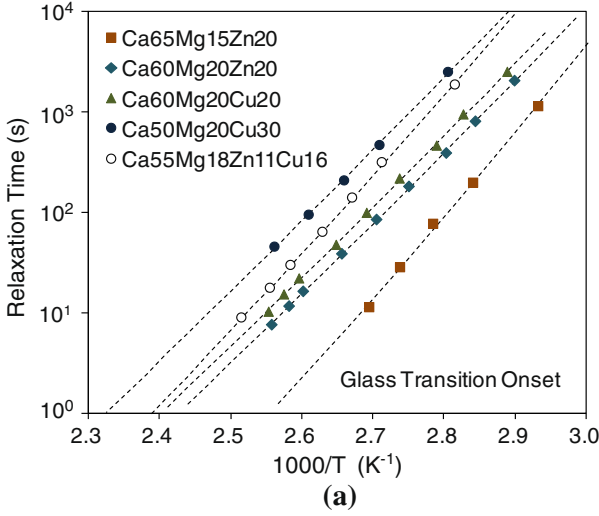


Fig. 3 Temperature dependence of the relaxation time at (a) the onset and (b) the end of the glass transition for five Ca based BMGs. The symbols represent experimental data and the dashed lines are the fits of Eq. [1] with fitting parameters given in Tables II and III.

of the glass transition, respectively. Using these fitting parameters, the reference glass transition temperatures T_{gs}^{ref} and T_{ge}^{ref} for the onset and the end of the glass transition, respectively, were determined, using Eq. [1], as the temperatures at which $\tau_g^{\text{cal}} = 1000$ s; i.e.,

$$T_g^{\text{ref}} = T_o + A/(17 \ln 10) \approx T_o + 0.0255A \quad [8]$$

Finally, the fragility index m_c was calculated for the onset and the end of the glass transition using Eq. [7] and the VFT fitting curves (Eq. [1]):^[7]

$$m_c = \frac{AT_g^{\text{ref}}}{(T_g^{\text{ref}} - T_o)^2 \ln 10} \quad [9]$$

The calculated T_g^{ref} and m_c values for the Ca-based BMGs at the onset and the end of the glass transition are tabulated in Tables II and III, respectively.

IV. DISCUSSION

The results reported in this work clearly indicate that the relaxation behavior of Ca-based BMGs in the glass transition region is different at the onset and the end of the glass transition. The enthalpy of the structural relaxation ΔH_g and the fragility index m_c were found to be smaller at the onset than at the end of the glass transition (Tables I through III). The parameters of the VFT Eq. [1] are also different so that A is higher and T_o is smaller for relaxation at the onset than at the end of the glass transition (compare Tables II and III). Taking into account that the liquid fragility increases with an increase in m and a decrease in T_o/T_g , one can conclude that the Ca-based BMGs show conversion from non-Arrhenius (fragile) behavior of supercooled liquid to near-Arrhenius behavior of glass in the temperature region of the glass transition.

A similar transition from a steep temperature dependence of viscosity/relaxation time of supercooled liquid to the weaker dependence of respective glass has been earlier reported for several fragile organic liquids^[29,30] as well as for metallic glasses.^[19,31,32] For example, Figure 4 illustrates the temperature dependence of the viscosity of α -naphthyl benzene (T α NB).^[29] The supercooled liquid of this organic glass former shows highly non-Arrhenius (fragile) behavior of the viscosity, with the fragility index $m_k = 76$ and the relaxation activation enthalpy $\Delta H_g \approx 485$ kJ/mol. At the same time, viscosity of the glass measured below T_g shows much weaker, near Arrhenius, temperature dependence with $m_k = 28$ and the relaxation activation enthalpy $\Delta H_g \approx 179$ kJ/mol. Two other examples of the weaker temperature dependence of viscosity of the glass than the respective supercooled liquid have been reported for Zr_{46.8}Ti_{8.2}Cu_{7.5}Ni₁₀Be_{27.5} (Figure 3 in Reference 19) and Mg₆₅Cu₂₅Y₁₀ (Figure 8 in Reference 31) amorphous metallic alloys. In both cases, a rapid, non-Arrhenius,

Table II. Fitting Parameters of the VFT Equation [1] for the Onset of the Glass Transition of Five Ca-Based BMGs*

Glass	τ_∞ (s)	A_s (K)	T_{os} (K)	r_s^2	T_{gs}^{ref} (K)	m_{cs} (Eq. [7])
Ca ₆₅ Mg ₁₅ Zn ₂₀	10 ⁻¹⁴	9138	108.3	0.99866	341.7	24.9
Ca ₆₀ Mg ₂₀ Zn ₂₀	10 ⁻¹⁴	11,306	61.3	0.99977	350.1	20.6
Ca ₆₀ Mg ₂₀ Cu ₂₀	10 ⁻¹⁴	11,503	59.1	0.99963	353.0	20.4
Ca ₅₀ Mg ₂₀ Cu ₃₀	10 ⁻¹⁴	12,231	50.8	0.99731	363.3	19.8
Ca ₅₅ Mg ₁₈ Zn ₁₁ Cu ₁₆	10 ⁻¹⁴	10,726	85.8	0.99921	359.8	22.3

*The coefficient of determination of the fit, r^2 , and the calculated T_{gs}^{ref} (the onset temperature at which $\tau_g^{\text{cal}} = 10^3$ s) and m_{cs} (Eq. [7]) values are also given here. The subscript s indicates that the parameters are associated with the onset (start) of glass transition.

Table III. Fitting Parameters of the VFT Equation [1] for the End of the Glass Transition of Five Ca-Based BMGs*

Glass	τ_∞ (s)	A_e (K)	T_{oe} (K)	r_e^2	T_{ge}^{ref} (K)	m_{ce} (Eq. [7])
Ca ₆₅ Mg ₁₅ Zn ₂₀	10 ⁻¹⁴	5985	206.8	0.99847	359.7	40.0
Ca ₆₀ Mg ₂₀ Zn ₂₀	10 ⁻¹⁴	7582	190.4	0.99481	384.1	33.7
Ca ₆₀ Mg ₂₀ Cu ₂₀	10 ⁻¹⁴	7693	196.5	0.9985	393.0	34.0
Ca ₅₀ Mg ₂₀ Cu ₃₀	10 ⁻¹⁴	8050	197.1	0.98727	402.8	33.3
Ca ₅₅ Mg ₁₈ Zn ₁₁ Cu ₁₆	10 ⁻¹⁴	6688	218.5	0.99749	389.4	38.7

*The coefficient of determination of the fit, r^2 , and the calculated T_{ge}^{ref} (the temperature of the end of the glass transition at which $\tau_g^{\text{cal}} = 10^3$ s) and m_{ce} (Eq. [7]) values are also given here. The subscript e indicates that the parameters are associated with the end of the glass transition.

increase in the liquid viscosity with a decrease in the temperature, which can be described by the VFT Eq. [1], was observed. At the same time, the viscosity of a nonequilibrium glassy state was reported to show a much weaker temperature dependence, so that the difference between the equilibrium and nonequilibrium viscosities increased with a decrease in the temperature. From the slopes of $\log \eta$ vs $1/T$ dependences near T_g ,^[19,31] we estimated the fragility indexes m_k for the supercooled liquid and glassy states (*i.e.*, for equilibrium and nonequilibrium amorphous states) to be 46.0 and 17.0 for the Zr-based alloy and 50.0 and 30.5 for the Mg-based alloy, respectively. The less viscous behavior and a weaker temperature dependence of the viscosity of the nonequilibrium glass relative to the equilibrium liquid at $T < T_g$ were attributed to the frozen-in excess free volume in the glass.^[19,33]

Because of the nonequilibrium nature of glass, its properties depend on the glass history. In particular, no well-defined equilibrium viscosity or relaxation time can be assigned to the frozen glassy state.^[19] The nonequilibrium properties measured at a given temperature will continuously change with an increase in the laboratory time scale, and the properties may achieve their equilibrium values (which always correspond to the properties of the supercooled liquid) only when the observation time exceeds the relaxation time. In other words, during DSC experiments with continuous heating, the onset of the glass transition always corresponds to a nonequilibrium glassy state and only the end of the glass transition corresponds to the equilibrium supercooled liquid state. An increase in the heating rate decreases the observation time at every given temperature and, therefore, shifts the glass transition toward

higher temperatures where the equilibrium (supercooled liquid state) can be achieved within the time governed by the heating rate. One can therefore conclude that the rate dependence of the end of the glass transition, T_{ge} , must be used in these DSC experiments for correct computation of properties of the supercooled liquid (*e.g.*, m_c and ΔH_g). The onset of the glass transition cannot be used for this purpose, because m_{cs} and ΔH_{gs} values determined at T_{gs} correspond to a nonequilibrium condition of the glass and, therefore, their values depend on the glass history. This explains why the m_{cs} values obtained in DSC heating experiments and related to the onset of the glass transition are almost always smaller than the m_k values obtained from direct measurements of equilibrium viscosity/relaxation time of supercooled liquids.^[10,15,17]

Another important observation of this work is that the fragility indexes calculated using Eq. [6] are about 10 to 20 pct smaller than those obtained with the use of Eq. [7]. This observation indicates that the temperature dependences of the DSC heating rate and the glass transition relaxation time are different, which is evidently due to the rate dependence of the glass transition width ΔT_g . Indeed, as it was first discussed in Reference 1, $\tau_g^{\text{cal}} = \Delta T_g / \phi$ or $\frac{d \log \tau_g^{\text{cal}}}{d \log \phi} = \frac{d \log \Delta T_g}{d \log \phi} - 1$. Therefore, Eqs. [6] and [7] for calculation of m_c will be equivalent (*i.e.*, $d \log \tau_g^{\text{cal}} \approx -d \log \phi$) only if the contribution from the ΔT_g containing term to m_c is less than or compared to the experimental error (generally, <5 pct). Otherwise, Eq. [6] should not be used as it would provide incorrect m_c values.

Figure 5 compares the fragile behavior of the relaxation time of the equilibrium Ca-based glass-forming

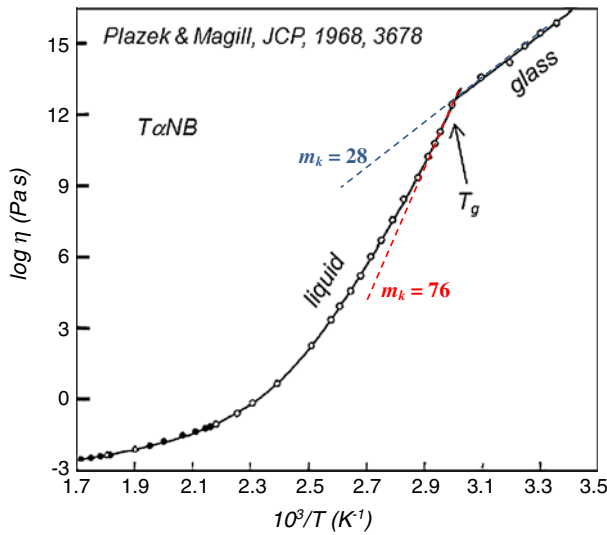


Fig. 4 Dependence of the logarithm of viscosity on the reciprocal absolute temperature for α naphthyl benzene (T α NB).^[29] A rapid non Arrhenius decrease in the liquid viscosity and a much weaker, almost Arrhenius, decrease in the viscosity of the glass with an increase in the temperature are clearly seen.

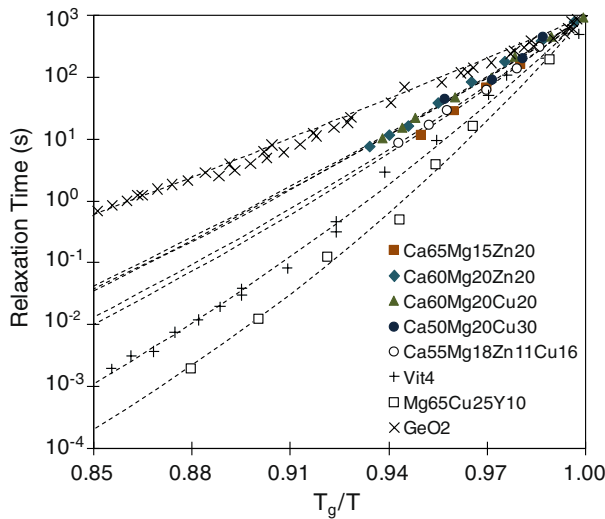


Fig. 5 Fragility plot of the relaxation time of five Ca based metallic glasses from this work, Zr_{46.75}Ti_{8.25}Cu_{7.5}Ni₁₀Be_{27.5} (Vit4),^[19,35] Mg₆₅Cu₂₅Y₁₀,^[31] and GeO₂.^[34] The relaxation time data for Zr based and Mg based BMGs and GeO₂ were deduced from the viscosity database using the Maxwell equation, $\tau = \eta/G_\infty$, where the dynamic shear modulus G_∞ is 37.2 GPa for Vit4, 20 GPa for Mg₆₅Cu₂₅Y₁₀,^[10] and 18.1 GPa for GeO₂.^[36]

liquids with the behavior of vitreous GeO₂,^[34] Zr_{46.75}Ti_{8.25}Cu_{7.5}Ni₁₀Be_{27.5} (Vit4),^[19,35] and Mg₆₅Cu₂₅Y₁₀.^[31] The temperature dependences of the relaxation time for these three amorphous materials were deduced from the experimentally available viscosity database using the Maxwell relation $\eta = G_\infty \tau$, where the dynamic modulus G_∞ is 18.1 GPa for GeO₂,^[36] 37.2 GPa for Vit4,^[10] and ~20 GPa for Mg₆₅Cu₂₅Y₁₀.^[10] GeO₂ is an excellent glass-forming liquid, which has a critical cooling rate for amorphization $R_c \approx 0.01$ K/s.^[4] It has a near Arrhenius

relaxation behavior in a wide temperature range, resulting in a low fragility index $m_k = 21.8$. The Vit4 and Mg₆₅Cu₂₅Y₁₀ are two of the best bulk metallic glass formers with $R_c \approx 8$ and 50 K/s, respectively,^[35] and exhibit relatively strong liquid behavior ($m_k = 46$ and 50^[4]). The high viscosity/relaxation time of these bulk metallic glass formers is an important contributing factor to their superior GFA, since it implies sluggish kinetics in the entire range of the supercooled liquid. Figure 5 illustrates that the supercooled Ca-based liquids are noticeably stronger than the Zr- and Mg-based glass-forming liquids. Extrapolation of the VFT fit to higher temperatures predicts that the relaxation time (and viscosity) of these Ca-based BMGs is about 2 to 2.5 orders of magnitude higher than those of Vit4 and Mg₆₅Cu₂₅Y₁₀ in the vicinity of equilibrium melting (*i.e.*, at $T_g/T = 0.55$ to 0.7). This explains the excellent GFA of the Ca-based alloys.

Using a recently proposed relationship between R_c , $T_{rg} = T_g/T_m$, and m (Eq. [3]),^[4] the critical cooling rate for amorphization was estimated for the Ca-based BMGs. The results are given in Table IV. The R_c values for some other BMGs, which were estimated independently by two methods, (1) from experimental temperature-time-transformation (TTT) diagrams and (2) using Eq. [3], are also presented in this table for comparison. A rather good agreement between the R_c values estimated by these two methods can be seen, indicating that Eq. [3] estimates the critical cooling rates for amorphization rather well (refer also to Reference 4). Therefore, the low R_c values (~0.2 to 10 K/s) predicted by this equation for the Ca-based glasses should also be considered reliable. Therefore, one can conclude that the GFA of the Ca-based BMGs is similar to that of the Pd- and Zr- based BMGs.

The excellent GFA of Ca-based BMGs indicates sluggish crystallization during solidification, as crystallization and glass formation are always competing processes; thus, glass is formed only when crystallization is suppressed during solidification. Crystallization is thermodynamically and kinetically driven, and it accompanies the atomic rearrangements from the disordered state of liquid to a long-range-ordered state of crystal. Recent thermodynamic analysis of the Ca-Mg-Zn alloy system by Gorsse *et al.*^[3] showed that the GFA of these alloys generally improves with a decrease in the onset driving force for crystallization. Slow kinetics of crystallization due to high viscosity/high relaxation time of supercooled liquid can also be important for enhancing the GFA of bulk metallic glasses.^[3,4] As stronger liquids generally have a higher viscosity/relaxation time between the melting and glass transition temperatures than more fragile liquids, the crystallization kinetics of the former (at the same driving force) are generally much slower, leading to enhanced GFA.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The relaxation behavior of two Ca-Mg-Zn, two Ca-Mg-Cu, and one Ca-Mg-Zn-Cu bulk metallic glass was studied in the glass transition range using DSC with

Table IV. Reduced Glass Transition Temperature, T_{rg} , Fragility Indexes, m_k and m_c , and Critical Cooling Rate, R_c (from TTT Diagrams and Given by Equation [3]), for Ca-Based (This Work), $Zr_{46.75}Ti_{8.25}Cu_{7.5}Ni_{10}Be_{27.5}$ (Vit 4),^[19,31] $Zr_{41.2}Ti_{13.8}Cu_{12.5}Ni_{10}Be_{22.5}$ (Vit1),^[35] $Mg_{65}Cu_{25}Y_{10}$,^[31] and $Pd_{40}Ni_{10}Cu_{30}P_{20}$ ^[37,38] BMGs

Glass	T_{rg} (K)	m_k	m_c	R_c (K/s) TTT	R_c (K/s) Eq. [3]
$Ca_{65}Mg_{15}Zn_{20}$	0.573		40.0		4.0
$Ca_{60}Mg_{20}Zn_{20}$	0.582		33.7		0.3
$Ca_{60}Mg_{20}Cu_{20}$	0.580		34.0		0.3
$Ca_{50}Mg_{20}Cu_{30}$	0.584		33.3		0.2
$Ca_{55}Mg_{18}Zn_{11}Cu_{16}$	0.612		38.7		0.3
$Zr_{41.2}Ti_{13.8}Cu_{12.5}Ni_{10}Be_{22.5}$	0.629	46.0		1.2	1.1
$Zr_{46.75}Ti_{8.25}Cu_{7.5}Ni_{10}Be_{27.5}$	0.578	46.0		<10	15.9
$Mg_{65}Cu_{25}Y_{10}$	0.535	50.0		50	140
$Pd_{40}Ni_{10}Cu_{30}P_{20}$	0.707	59.0		0.1 to 0.3	0.2

heating rates from 1 to 160 K/min. The temperatures of the start T_{gs} and the end T_{ge} of the glass transition increase, while the glass transition temperature width $\Delta T_g = T_{ge} - T_{gs}$ decreases with an increase in the heating rate. Such behavior allows analysis and comparison of the temperature dependence of the relaxation time in the nonequilibrium glassy state near the onset of the glass transition and in the equilibrium supercooled liquid state near the end of the glass transition.

The temperature dependences of the relaxation time at the onset and at the end of the glass transition are different. The activation enthalpy of structural relaxation ΔH_g and the fragility index m are smaller in the glassy state than in the supercooled liquid state. The smaller ΔH_g indicates easier activation of the structural relaxation in the glassy state than in the supercooled liquid state at temperatures near and below T_g , which explains the reduced values of the relaxation time and viscosity of glass relative to the supercooled liquid in this temperature range.

It was concluded that the heating rate dependence of the end of the glass transition should be used to correctly analyze the relaxation behavior of the supercooled liquid. The onset glass transition temperature cannot be used to analyze the equilibrium behavior, because in this condition, almost 100 pct of the material is in a nonequilibrium glassy state.

The Ca-based glass-forming liquids show strong behavior of the relaxation time, with the fragility indexes m_c in the range of 33 to 40. The strong liquid behavior implies sluggish kinetics of crystallization in the supercooled liquid region and can explain the very good GFA of these alloys. The critical cooling rate for amorphization R_c of the Ca-based bulk metallic glasses was estimated to be in the range of 0.3 to 10 K/s, which is similar to R_c values for the best Pd- and Zr-based metallic glass-forming alloys discovered so far.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The technical support from J.M. Scott (sample preparation) and S.V. Senkova (DSC experiments) is very much appreciated. This work was financially supported through the Air Force Office of Scientific

Research (Dr. J. Fuller, Program Manager) and the Air Force Research Laboratory On-site Contract No. FA8650-04-D-5235 (UES, Inc.).

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